



General	85
Buoyage System	85
Currency	85
Government	85
Holidays	85
Industries	85
Languages	85
Mined Areas	86
Pilotage	86
Regulations	86
Time Zone	86
U.S. Embassy	86
Vessel Traffic Service	86

General

Fiji, an independent nation within the British Commonwealth, consists of about 320 islands and islets located in the South Pacific Ocean between 15°S and 22°S, and 174°E and 177°W. The island of Rotuma, lying in position 12°30'S, 178°00'E, was added to the colony in 1881.

The two main islands are Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

The climate is tropical marine having slight seasonal temperature changes.

The terrain for most of Fiji's larger islands is mountainous and volcanic. Mount Victoria, on Viti Levu, is the highest mountain with an elevation of 1,424m. There are several other mountains in the vicinity of 1,000m.

Generally, the smaller islands are of limestone and coral, their cliffs rising steeply to flat tops with little vegetation.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Fiji dollar, consisting of 100 cents.

Government

The republic of Fiji is an independent nation with a bicameral Parliament.

The head of government consists of a President, appointed to a term of five years by the Great Council of Chief (the highest ranking members of the traditional chiefly system) and a Prime Minister appointed by the President.

The Cabinet is appointed by the Prime Minister from among members of Parliament and is also responsible to the Parliament.

Suva is the capital and is situated on Viti Levu.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

January 1, New Year's Day; February 4, Prophet Mohammed's Birthday; Good Friday; Easter Saturday; Easter Monday; June 16, Queen's Birthday; August 4, Bank Holiday; October 10, Independence Day; October 13, Fiji Day; November 7, Deepawali; November 10, Prince Charle's Birthday; December 25, Christmas Day; and December 26, Boxing Day.

Industries

The main industries are based on sugar, tourism, copra, gold, silver, clothing, lumber, and small cottage type industries.

Languages

The official language of Fiji is English.

Fijian is the indigenous language of Fiji. Hindi is the language of the Indians in the Fiji Islands.

Mined Areas

Mines have been cleared from the following areas, but vessels must not anchor nor submarines bottom.

Vitu Levu:

1. Rovundrau Bay, W entrance (18°18'S., 178°01'E.).
2. Rovundrau Bay, middle entrance (18°17.6'S., 178°04.2'E.).
3. Rovundrau Bay, E entrance (18°17.5'S., 178°06'E.).
4. Nukumbutho Passage (18°11'S., 178°28.5'E.).
5. Nukulau Passage (18°11'S., 178°31.5'E.).
6. Moturiki Channel (17°48.3'S., 178°47.6'E.).
7. West of Moturiki Island.
8. West of Ovalau Island (17°40'S., 178°48'E.).
9. Ovalau area.
10. Southeast Moon Reef (17°31.7'S., 178°32.2'E.), NE of Wilkes and Malolo Passages, E and S of Navini Island (17°51'S., 177°11'E.).
11. East of Navini Island (17°42.3'S., 177°13.9'E.).
12. South of Levuka Island (17°39.4'S., 177°16.3'E.).
13. North of Levuka Island, between Tai and Tivoa Islets.
14. Manava Passage (17°21'S., 177°48.6'E.).
15. Na Tobu Drauvi Passage (17°18.8'S., 177°50.6'E.).
16. Nukurauvula Passage (17°18.5'S., 177°59'E.).
17. Nananu Passage (17°16'S., 178°12'E.).

Vanua Levu:

1. Kia Island Passage (16°16'S., 179°04'E.).
2. Mali Passage (16°17'S., 179°17'E.).
3. Sau Sau Passage (16°11'S., 179°30'E.).
4. Point Passage (16°49'S., 179°16'E.).
5. Nyavu Passage (16°51'S., 179°07.5'E.).
6. Kumbalau Passage (16°52.4'S., 179°06.4'E.).

Pilotage

Pilotage is compulsory for merchant vessels entering or leaving the port of Suva unless specially exempted.

The usual pilot signals should be made by a vessel requiring a pilot when approaching a harbor. Harbormasters and pilots are stationed at the ports of Suva and Lautoka.

Vessels requiring a pilot for the ports of Levuka, Vatia, Ellington, Lambasa, or the inner routes between them from Lautoka or Suva are advised to communicate with their Fiji agents, or with the harbormaster at Suva or Lautoka by radio, stating the expected time of arrival and the port or route for which a pilot is required.

Regulations

The master of every vessel shall anchor, moor, or place his vessel where the harbormaster may direct and shall not move nor allow the said vessel to be moved from such place without permission of the harbormaster and shall also remove his said vessel from any such place when ordered by the harbormaster.

No person shall anchor a vessel in the fairway of any channel so as to obstruct the approach to any wharf.

Vessels entering any harbor having onboard explosives or any material of a dangerous or inflammable nature shall, from the time of entering the harbor until such goods have been unloaded, by day display a red flag, and by night exhibit a red light, visible all round the horizon for a distance of at least 2 miles.

Masters of vessels arriving with such goods shall immediately furnish the harbormaster with particulars of the same.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is MIKE (-12).

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated at Suva. The mailing address is P.O. Box 218, 31 Loltus Street, Suva.

Vessel Traffic Service

A maritime surveillance safety service involving ship reporting has been established for all vessels, including small craft.

Reports should be sent daily to Suva coast radio station (3DP) or by telex to HOMSEC Fiji (FJ2342).

The report should include the vessel's name, position, date and time of report, port of destination, and ETA.